

May 27, 2005

Charles R. Bomberger
General Manager, Nuclear Asset Manager
Northern States Power Company
Dba Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

SUBJECT: LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 15

Dear Mr. Bomberger:

I am responding to your February 17, 2004, letter requesting that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approve Xcel Energy's decommissioning plan (DP) for the Pathfinder site and amend its byproduct materials license to authorize decommissioning activities. The NRC staff has evaluated Xcel Energy's request and completed an environmental assessment (EA) (See ADAMS ML050960256) to support the review of Xcel Energy's DP and license amendment request, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51. On May 25, 2005, the EA was published in the Federal Register (70 FR 30150). Based on the staff evaluation, the conclusion of the EA is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on human health and the environment for the proposed licensing action. A Safety Evaluation Report was also prepared for this licensing action and is included as an attachment.

Enclosed is License No. 22-08799-02, Amendment No. 15, authorizing the decommissioning of the Pathfinder site. The authorized use condition under this license is changed to read:

9. Authorized use:

For Possession Only, incident to license termination. Decommissioning activities in accordance with the Pathfinder Decommissioning Plan submitted by letter dated February 17, 2004 and supplemented by letter dated December 21, 2004.

No other use of radioactive materials is authorized under the current license amendment. License condition 13 is changed as follows: 13 B. Replaced with letter dated February 21, 2003; 13 C. Replaced with application dated June 16, 2003; 13 D. Added letter dated October 15, 2003; and 13 E. Added letter dated February 17, 2004, and supplemented by letter dated December 21, 2004. All other license conditions shall remain the same.

Northern States Power Company

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If you have any question, please contact me at 301-415-7295, or Chad Glenn of my staff at 301-415-6722.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kimberly A. Gruss, Acting Deputy Director
Decommissioning Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 030-05004

License No.: 22-08799-02

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 15 to License 22-08799-02
2. Safety Evaluation Report

cc: Pathfinder Distribution List

Northern States Power Company

-2-

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and Safeguards

Docket No.: 030-05004

License No.: 22-08799-02

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 15 to License 22-08799-02
2. Safety Evaluation Report

cc: Pathfinder Distribution List

DISTRIBUTION:

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ML051430440

OFFICE	DWMEP:PM	DWMEP	DWMEP:D	
NAME	C.Glenn	C.Burkhalter	K.Gruss	
DATE	5/26/05	5/27/05	5/27/05	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Pathfinder Service List

cc:

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